## **CLAIMS**

- 1. A rubber composition for a tread characterized by compounding (a) 5-40 parts by mass of a softening agent including an oil in which an extraction quantity with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) by IP346 process is controlled to less than 3% by mass and (b) 5-40 parts by mass of a liquid polymer having a viscosity average molecular weight of 45,000-100,000 based on 100 parts by mass of a rubber component.
- 2. A rubber composition for a tread according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity average molecular weight of the liquid polymer is 55,000-85,000.
- 3. A rubber composition for a tread according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the liquid polymer is a liquid styrene-butadiene copolymer.
- 4. A rubber composition for a tread according to claim 1, wherein the oil is at least one process oil selected from the group consisting of T-DAE and MES.
- 5. A rubber composition for a tread according to claim 1, wherein the softening agent (a) further contains a hydrogenated naphthenic oil.
- 6. A rubber composition for a tread according to claim 5, wherein the hydrogenated naphthenic oil is obtained by hydrogenating a naphthenic oil in which a content of naphthenic hydrocarbon (%C<sub>N</sub>) measured according to ASTM D2140 is not less than 30.
- 7. A rubber composition for a tread according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the softening agent (a) further contains asphalt having a dynamic viscosity at 120°C of not more than 300 mm<sup>2</sup>/sec and an asphaltene content of not more than 5% by mass at a mass ratio of hydrogenated naphthenic oil/asphalt of 95/5-5/95.
- 8. A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 in a tread.

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